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Letter dated 7 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

I have the honour to address the Secretary-General with reference to the letter dated 30 January 1997 from Ambassador Qin Huasun, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (A/52/69).

Recognizing the growing importance of the People's Republic of China, the international community welcomes opportunities for cooperation that would benefit the peoples of the world. Moreover, Solomon Islands has spoken at the United Nations in support of the peaceful reunification of China. How surprising, then, to read the strident language Ambassador Qin Huasun uses to characterize my letter to the Secretary-General of 3 January 1997 (A/51/781). Contentious arguments are unfortunate in diplomacy dealing with so critical an issue as the future of the 21.4 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan. False allegations do not contribute to the calm and thoughtful process such a complex political problem requires. Contrary to what Ambassador Qin Huasun states, Solomon Islands has not used the forum of the United Nations "to undermine China's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the cause of reunification and to interfere in China's internal affairs". The accusation that Solomon Islands "seriously violated" General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) as well as the purposes and principles of the Charter could be readily dismissed if the issue at hand - the democratic and peaceful reunification of China - were not so crucial.

* The designations employed in the present letter do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities.

The Government of Solomon Islands is committed to meeting the obligatio of the Charter and the resolutions of the General Assembly. We are pledged democracy, human rights and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Solomon Islands does not need to be advised by the People's Republic of China what Member States can or cannot tolerate with respect to the Charter and General Assembly resolutions. Bullying has no place in diplomacy at the United Nati

Ambassador Qin Huasun states that soon "the Chinese Government will res the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, and the concept of 'one country, systems' will turn into a reality". The people of the world will judge the success of the undertaking. His Government, Ambassador Qin Huasun states, " adhere to the basic principle of 'one country, two systems' and the eight-po proposal put forward by President Jiang Zemin on developing the relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits and advancing the process of peaceful reunification of the motherland". I am pleased to read this, becau it is the same point I made in my statement of 18 September 1996 before the General Committee of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly introdu the request for the inclusion of an agenda item that would, I stated, have permitted a debate "on how the Republic of China on Taiwan, committed to reunification with the People's Republic of China, could in the interim incr its contribution to the international community through the work of the Unit Nations". I stated, "the leaders of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan have clearly and publicly committed their Governments to reunification. In an eight-point proposal of 30 January 199 Mr. Jiang Zemin, now President of the People's Republic of China, declared " should strive for the peaceful reunification of the motherland since Chinese should not fight fellow Chinese'. Rejecting the concepts of 'two Chinas' an 'one China, one Taiwan', Mr. Jiang spoke of the 'basic principles of peacefu reunification' and 'one country, two systems'. He called for increasing contacts across the Taiwan Straits and negotiations that would lead to reunification in which Taiwan would 'exercise a high degree of autonomy and enjoy legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication' and 'may also retain its armed forces and administer its party governmental and military systems by itself'. Mr. Lee Teng-hui, President o the Republic of China, responded with a six-point proposal calling for the pursuit of reunification, strengthening cultural exchanges, expansion of tra relations, peaceful resolution of disputes and the joint safeguarding of democracy and prosperity. The similarities between the two sets of proposal are notable. Of course there are differences, and these would need to be resolved in face-to-face negotiations". Incredibly, Ambassador Qin Huasun h mis-characterized my words as "clamouring in favour of the secessionist activities of the Taiwan authorities".

The Government of Solomon Islands believes that reunification negotiati must be conducted in an atmosphere free of threats and accusations. The Uni Nations could provide considerable assistance through its good offices and, towards that end, Solomon Islands and 15 other countries made the request la September for the inclusion of an appropriate item in the agenda of the fift first session of the General Assembly. Regrettably, the People's Republic o China opposed the request as it has in the past. To delay negotiations to h about the peaceful reunification of China is to risk an increase of tension

across the Taiwan Straits and in the neighbouring countries of east Asia and the south-west Pacific.

I have the honour to request that you have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 48.

(Signed) Rex S. HOROI
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to the United Nations